

CLAIMS:

1. A method (60) for identifying an electrode type in an automatic external defibrillator (50) comprising the steps of:

providing (61) a shaped conductive label (13; 23; 33) on an automatic external defibrillator electrode package (10; 20, 30) that uniquely identifies a type of electrode contained therein; and

coupling (62) one or more pins (42a-d) to the shaped conductive label (13; 23; 33) when the automatic external defibrillator electrode package (10; 20; 30) is coupled to the defibrillator (50).

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

sensing (63) a shape of the shaped conductive label (13; 23; 33) with the one or more pins (42a-d) to ascertain the type of electrode contained therein.

3. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

selecting (64) an operating mode for the automatic external defibrillator (50) based on the shape of the shaped conductive label (13; 23; 33).

4. The method (60) according to claim 2, wherein said sensing step further comprises redundantly sensing two or more portions of said shape of the shaped conductive label (13; 23; 33) with two or more pins to ascertain the type of electrode contained therein.

5. An electrode package (10; 20; 30) for an automatic external defibrillator (50) comprising:

a cartridge (10; 20; 30) for containing one or more electrodes of a particular type; and

a shaped conductive label (13; 23; 33) disposed on the cartridge (10; 20; 30), said shaped conductive label (13; 23; 33) uniquely identifying the particular type of electrode contained therein via the shape of said shaped label (13; 23; 33).

6. An automatic external defibrillator (50) comprising:

one or more electrode cartridges (10; 20; 30), each containing one or more electrodes of a particular type; and

one or more shaped conductive labels (13; 23; 33), each disposed on one of the one or more electrode cartridges (10; 20; 30), each of said one or more shaped conductive labels (13; 23; 33) uniquely identifying a particular type of electrode contained therein based on the shape of said shaped label (13; 23; 33).

7. The automatic external defibrillator (50) according to claim 6, further comprising:

an electrode cartridge receptacle (40) to accept each of the one or more electrode cartridges (10; 20; 30), said electrode cartridge receptacle (40) including one or more sensing pins (42a-d) to couple in a unique pattern to the one or more shaped conductive labels (13; 23; 33) when each of the one or more electrode cartridges (10; 20; 30) is inserted into the electrode cartridge receptacle (40).

8. The automatic external defibrillator (50) according to claim 7, wherein said sensing pins (42a-d) are disposed to couple in a unique pattern to two or more portions of each of said shaped conductive labels (13; 23; 33) to redundantly identify said particular type of electrode.

9. The automatic external defibrillator (50) according to claim 7, further comprising:
a processor (51) establishing a mode of operation of the automatic external defibrillator (50) based on the particular one of the one or more shaped conductive labels (13; 23; 33; 53) sensed by the one or more sensing pins (42a-d).

10. The automatic external defibrillator (50) according to claim 7, wherein each of the one or more sensing pins (42a-d) comprises a spring-loaded pin to maintain said each sensing pin in electrical contact with the one or more shaped conductive labels (13; 23; 33; 53) when each of the one or more electrode cartridges (10; 20; 30) is inserted into the electrode cartridge receptacle (40).

11. The automatic external defibrillator (50) according to claim 7, wherein each of the one or more shaped conductive labels (13; 23; 33; 53) comprises a gold-plated metal.

12. The automatic external defibrillator (50) according to claim 9, wherein each of the one or more shaped conductive labels (13; 23; 33; 53) comprises a unique shape.

13. The automatic external defibrillator (50) according to claim 12, wherein the one or more sensing pins (42a-d) sense the unique shape of the one or more shaped conductive labels (13; 23; 33; 53) when each of the one or more electrode cartridges (10; 20; 30) is inserted into the electrode cartridge receptacle (40).

14. The automatic external defibrillator (50) according to claim 13, wherein the processor (51) establishes a mode of operation of the automatic external defibrillator (50) based on the sensed shape of the conductive label (13; 23; 33; 53).

15. The automatic external defibrillator (50) according to claim 7, wherein each of the automatic external defibrillator electrode cartridges (10; 20; 30) includes two contacts (11, 12) for electrically connecting patient electrodes to the automatic external defibrillator (50) and the automatic external defibrillator electrode cartridge receptacle (40) includes two contacts (41, 43) for electrically connecting the automatic external defibrillator to the two contacts (11, 12) on each of the automatic external defibrillator electrode cartridges (10; 20; 30), and said two contacts (41, 43) on the automatic external defibrillator electrode cartridge receptacle (40) are different than said one or more sensing pins (42a-d).

16. A method (60) for identifying an electrode type in an automatic external defibrillator (50) comprising the steps of:

providing (61) a first conductive label (13; 23; 33) on a first type of an automatic external defibrillator electrode package (10; 20; 30), said first conductive label (13; 23; 33) having a first shape that uniquely identifies a type of electrode contained therein; and

providing (61) a second conductive label (13; 23; 33) on a second type of an automatic external defibrillator electrode package (10; 20; 30), said second conductive label (13; 23; 33) having a second shape that uniquely identifies a type of electrode contained therein.

17. The method (60) according to claim 16, further comprising the step of:

coupling (62) one or more pins to the first or second conductive label (13; 23; 33) when the automatic external defibrillator electrode package (10; 20; 30) on which the first or

second conductive label (13; 23; 33), respectively, is disposed is coupled to the defibrillator (50).

18. The method (60) according to claim 17, wherein the one or more pins (42a-d) comprise one or more spring-loaded pins.

19. The method (60) according to claim 17, further comprising the step of:
sensing (63) a shape of the shaped conductive label (13; 23; 33) with the one or more pins to ascertain a type of electrode contained therein.

20. The method (60) according to claim 16, further comprising the step of:
selecting (64) an operating mode for the automatic external defibrillator (50) based on the shape of the first and second shaped conductive labels (13; 23; 33).